GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1874
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
PRIORITY TO SOLAR ENERGY
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to accord priority to the solar energy over the hydro and thermal power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study to exploit energy from other sources besides thermal, hydro and solar energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a)&(b): Government is promoting all indigenous energy resources, conventional like hydro and thermal as well as non-conventional including solar, depending upon techno-economic feasibility/viability with the aim of making them complementary to each other. However, solar energy is still not competitive to conventional energy sources for large-scale power generation. Hence, it is being promoted in areas, where it is useful and viable particularly in the remote and hilly areas. A total of around 3,50,451 solar lanterns, 1,52,180 home lighting systems, 41,403 street lights, 4156 water pumps, 5,90,000 sq. meters of collector area for water heating, 5,10,000 solar cookers and 2.75 MW capacity of power plants have been installed till 31.03.2001. It is proposed to install another 85,000 solar lanterns, 35,000 home lighting systems, 3,000 street lights, 800 water pumps, 40,000 sq. meters of collector area for water heating, 25,000 solar cookers and 520 kW capacity of power plants during the current year.

(c) & (d): The other sources of non-conventional energy include wind, small hydro, biomass, urban & industrial wastes, geo-thermal and ocean energy. Studies and estimates prepared by the Ministry and various other institutions have revealed that there is a potential for generating 45,000 MW from wind, 15,000 MW from small-hydro, 19,500 MW from biomass, 1,700 MW from urban & industrial wastes, 10,000 MW from geo-thermal and around 15,000 MW from ocean tides in the country.